

# The civil protection system in Quebec



Direction générale de la sécurité civile  
et de la sécurité incendie

September 13 2011

# Regional Directorates



# Ministère de la Sécurité publique

## MISSION

- With its partners, to ensure public security in Quebec

## Roles and responsibilities of Civil Protection

- Reduce Quebecers' vulnerability to disaster-related risks
- Contribute, with its partners, to ensuring the safety of individuals and communities



# Major events since 1970

- Hurricane Irene (2011)
- Richelieu Valley flood (Montérégie – 2011)
- Forest fire and evacuation of Aboriginal reserves (2010)
- Repatriation of Canadian and non-Canadian nationals from Haiti (2010)
- Vaccination against influenza A (H1N1) (2009)
- Rivière-au-Renard flood in Gaspé (2007)
- Repatriation of Canadian nationals from Lebanon (2006)
- Ice storm in southwestern Quebec (1998)
- Floods, landslides and ruptures of engineering works in Saguenay / Lac-Saint-Jean (1996)
- Fire at a used tire dump in Saint-Amable (1990)
- Fire in a warehouse containing PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in Saint-Basile-le-Grand (1988)
- Magnitude 6.0 earthquake on the Richter Scale (1988)
- Clay flow landslide at Saint-Jean-Vianney in Saguenay (1971)



# Evolution of the Civil Protection Act

- 1951 Adoption of the Civil Protection Act
- 1964 Amendment of the Civil Protection Act to take peacetime disasters into account
- 1979 Adoption of the Act respecting the protection of persons and property in the event of disaster
- 2001 Adoption of the Civil Protection Act
- 2012 Reform of the Civil Protection Act

# Civil Protection

## This is the set of measures that:

- Aims at preventing a disaster from occurring or tries to reduce the effects of one
- When a disaster happens, makes it possible to protect lives and safeguard property
- After a disaster, encourages a return to normal life



# Definition of a Disaster

Within the meaning of the *Civil Protection Act*, a major disaster is an event that causes serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property and requires unusual action on the part of the affected community.



# Definition of a Disaster

**In other words,**

- **The normal operation of the community or of a society is severely disrupted**
- **Major losses of life and material, economic or environmental losses are observed**
- **The community affected is unable to deal with the conditions and consequences arising from the occurrence of the random event or events with the resources and capacities at its disposal.**





# The 4 dimensions of civil protection

- **Prevention**
- **Preparedness**
- **Response**
- **Recovery**



# National Civil Protection Plan

- Created by the Minister of Public Security:
  - In liaison with other government departments and agencies (40 departments and agencies committed, including 17 mission coordinators)
- Provides concerted government action in the 4 dimensions of civil protection:
  - Prevention
  - Preparedness
  - Response
  - Recovery
- Regional spinoff: Regional Civil Protection Plans



# 17 missions of the NCPP

- Economic activities – MDÉIE
- Financial assistance – MSP
- Bio-food – MAPAQ
- Communications – Services Québec
- Water, hazardous and residual materials – MDDEP
- Electric power – Hydro Québec
- Energy – MRNF
- Mass evacuation, reentry and security – SQ
- Housing – SHQ
- Health – MSSS
- Support services for disaster victims – MESS
- Support for the OSCQ – MSP
- Technical support to municipalities – MAMROT
- Transportation – MTQ
- Telecommunications – CSPQ
- Essential government services – SCT
- Estates –Coroner's Office



# Other partners

## Federal partners

- Public Security Canada
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Environment Canada
- Coast Guard
- etc.

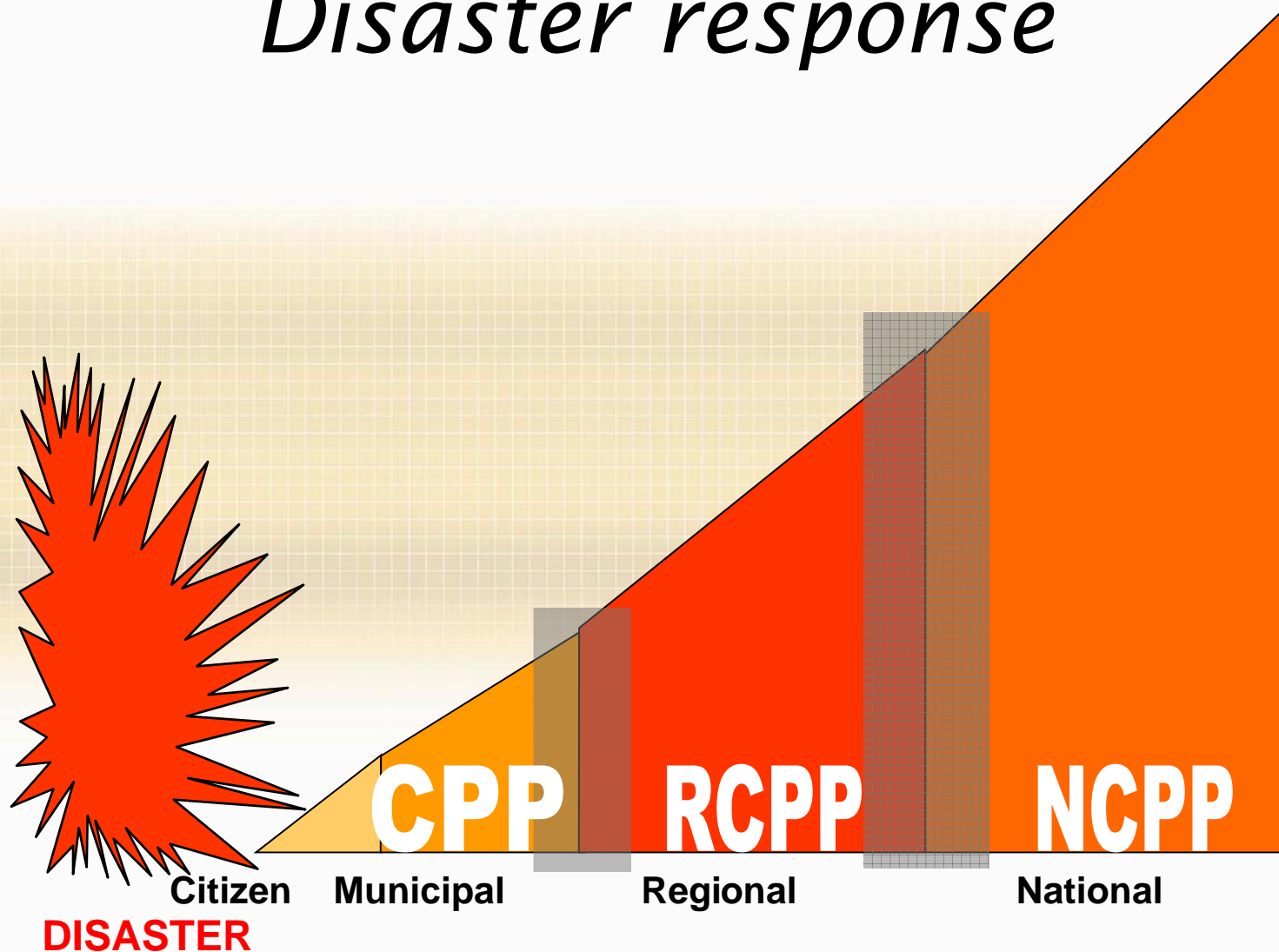
## Specialized partners

- Red Cross
- Radio Amateur du Québec Inc. (RAQI)
- Société de protection des forêts contre le feu (SOPFEU)
- Association Québécoise des Bénévoles en Recherche et Sauvetage (AQBRS)
- Centre d'expertise hydrique du Québec
- Hydro-Météo
- Other (need or risk)





# *Disaster response*



# The Municipal Civil Protection Authority (MCPA)

## Members

- The Municipal Civil Protection Coordinator
- The people responsible for essential services

## Responsibility

- To roll out the response and recovery measures set out in the Municipal Civil Protection Plan to meet the essential needs of the population by setting up services



# Role of the Municipal Civil Protection Coordinator



# The Coordinator's responsibilities

- **Prevention and preparedness**

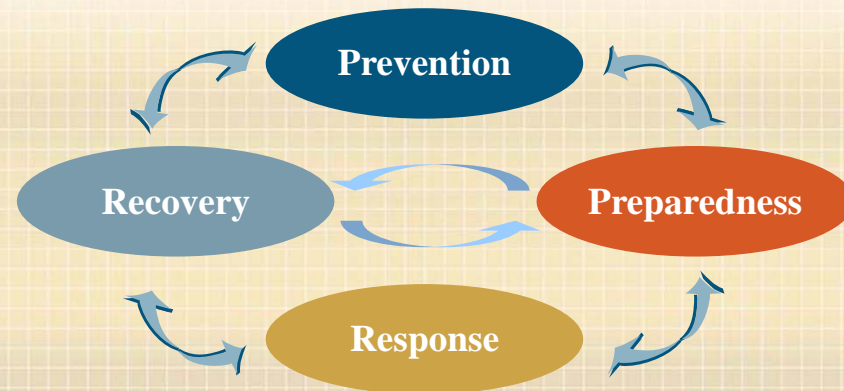
- Coordinate the preparation and updating of the emergency response plan (ERP/PMU)
- Encourage resources to work together and coordinate their actions
- Set up the MCPA
- Distribute the ERP
- Prepare and conduct drills

- **Response**

- Activate the ERP
- Coordinate the emergency response
- Verify information
- Provide liaison with the RCPD, neighbouring municipalities, etc.
- Recommend evacuation or containment

- **Recovery**

- Implement the recovery measures set out in the ERP
- Close the coordination centre
- Hold debriefing sessions
- Produce an assessment of the damage and account for the emergency expenditures





# Municipal Civil Protection Plan



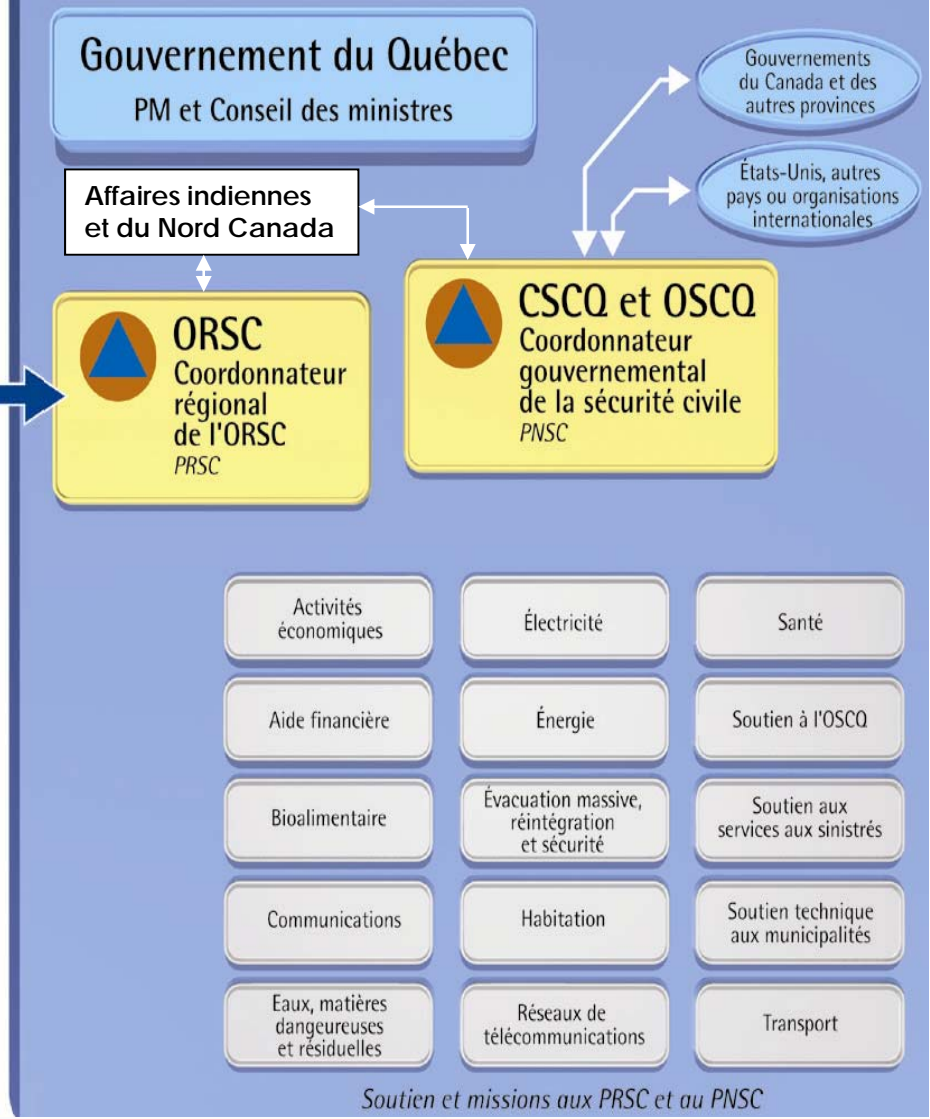
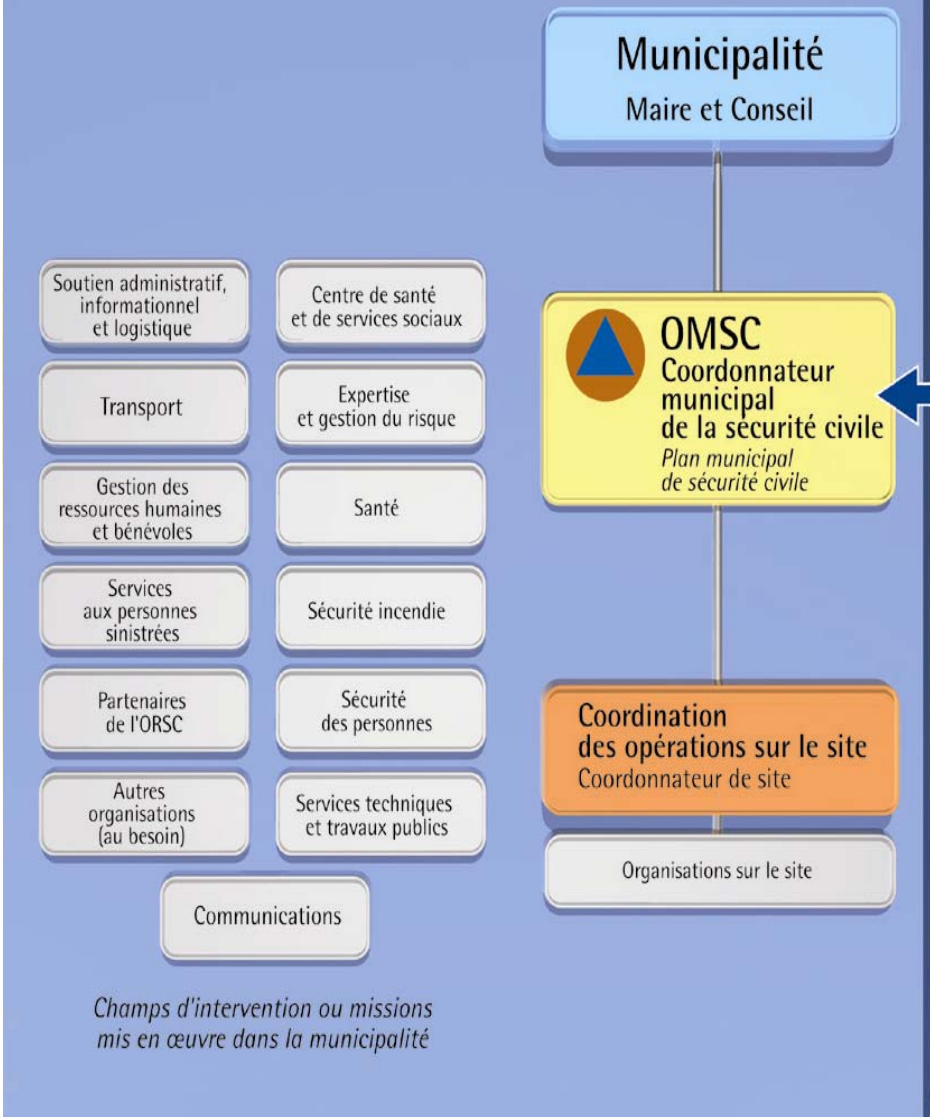
# Measures to be implemented

- Public alert
- Alert and mobilization of the actors
- General rescue measures
- Measures to inform the public about responsible civil protection behaviour
- Measures to inform the public about certain potential risks to which the municipality may be exposed
- The risk and disaster management process
- Resource directory



## Coordination municipale

## Coordination gouvernementale





# Main identified risks

## Flooding

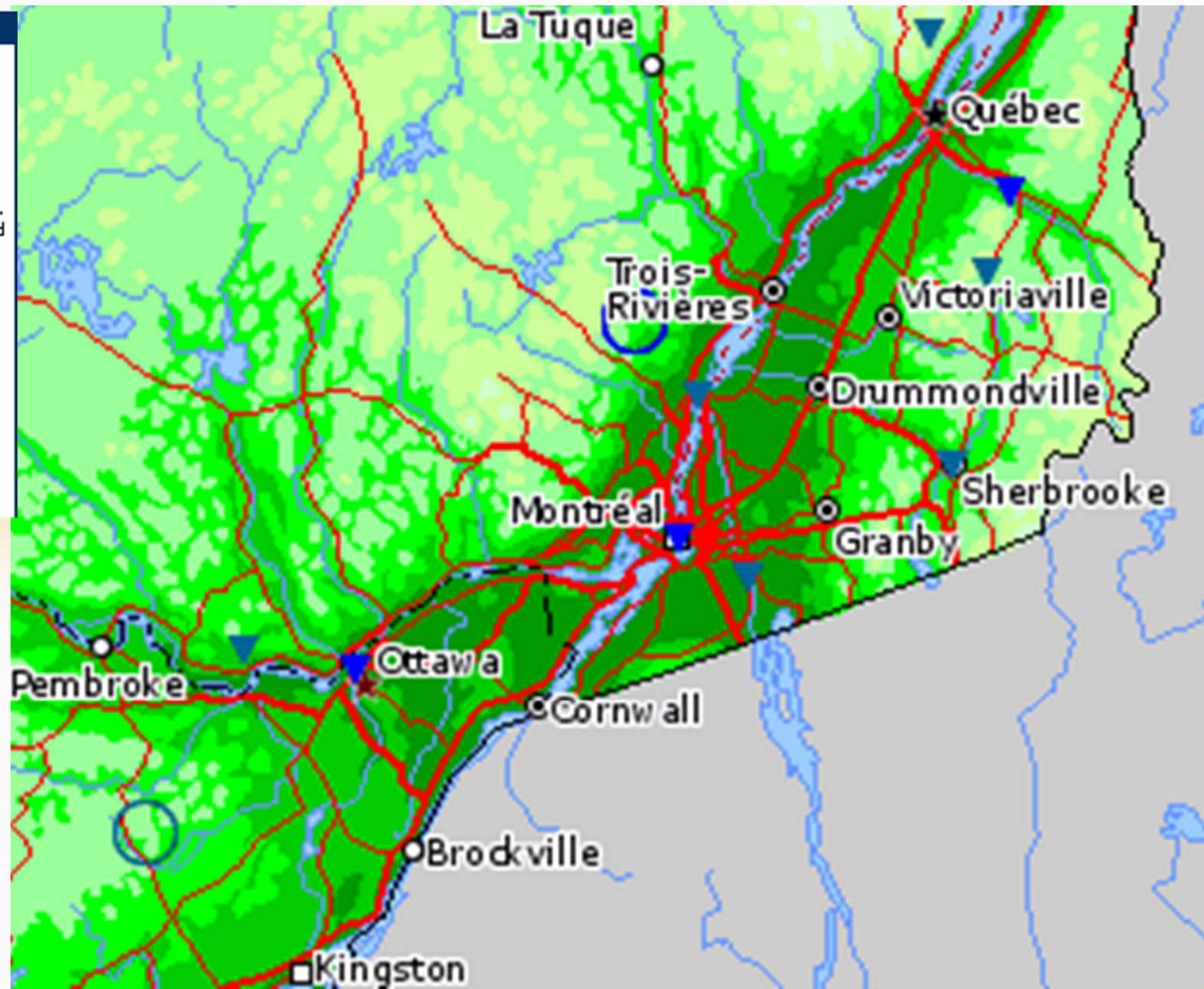
### Major Floods, 1902 - 2005

- ▼ Local Effects (single occurrence)
- ▼ Local Effects (multiple occurrences)

Note: Local Effect symbols indicate floods which have affected a relatively small area. They indicate the most affected location.

- Regional Effects (single occurrence)
- Regional Effects (multiple occurrences)

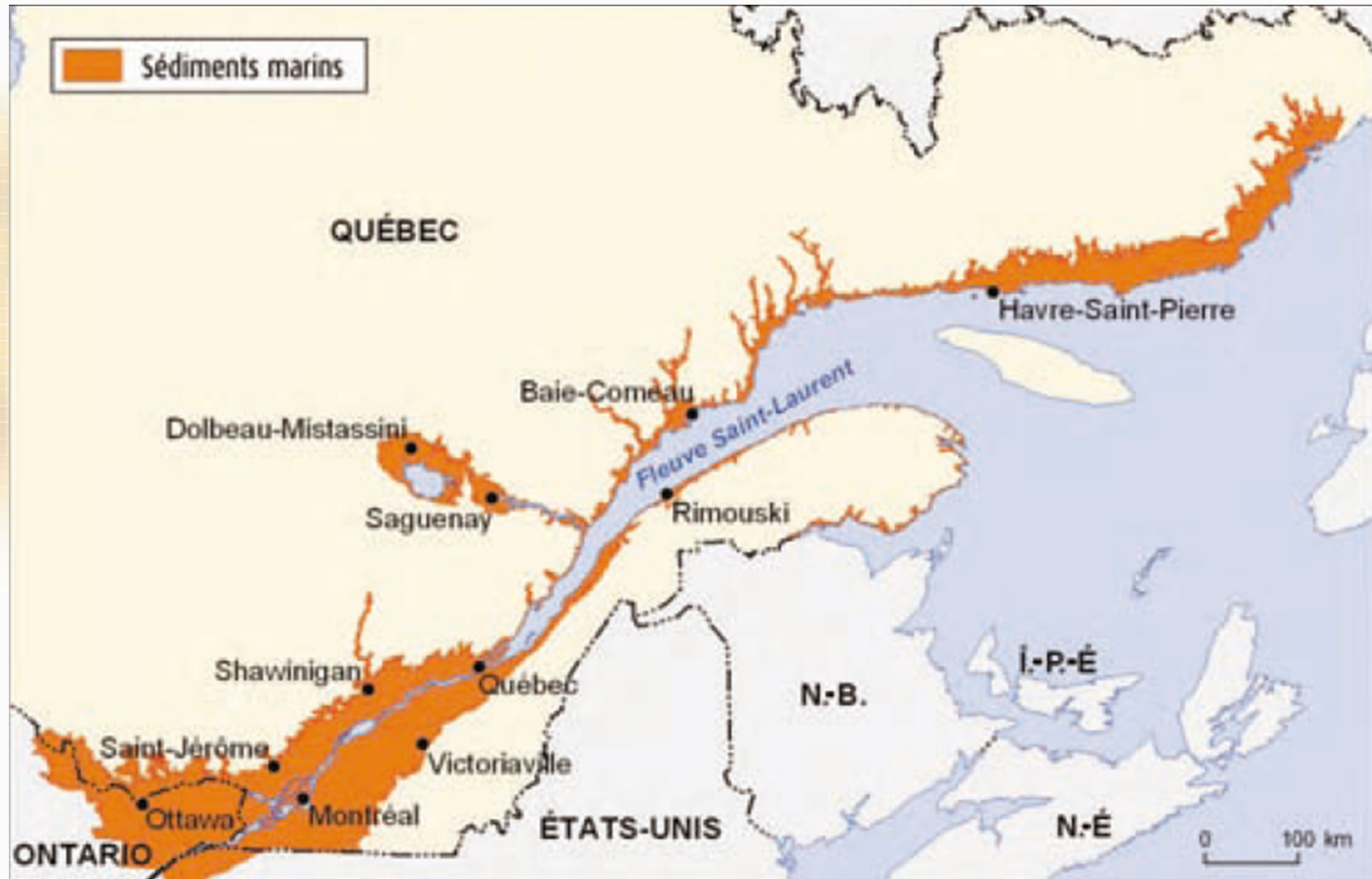
Note: The Regional Effect symbols represent flood disasters which have affected large areas. The symbols do not indicate the exact location or extent of the flood.





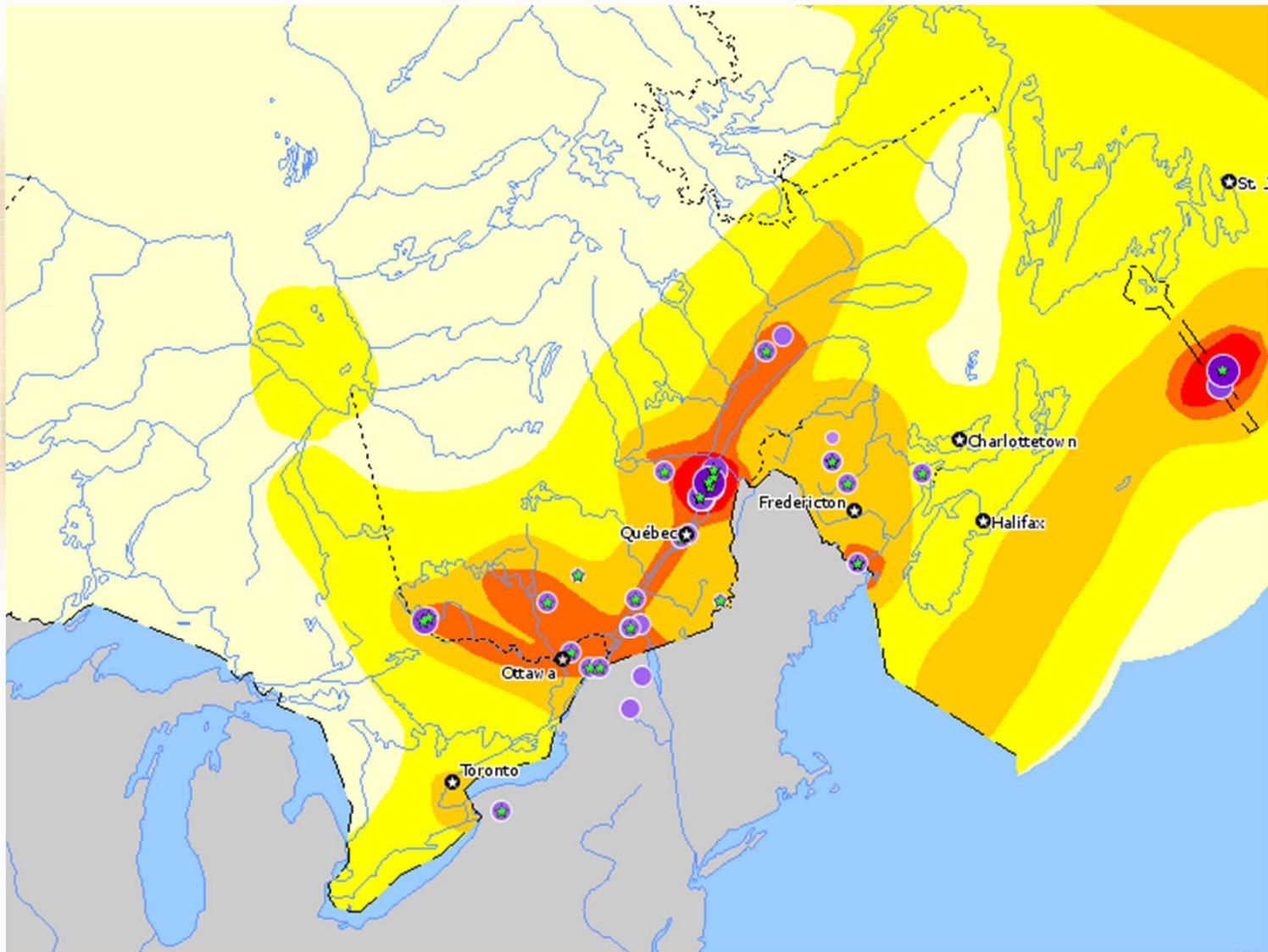
# Main identified risks

## Landslide



# Main identified risks

## Earthquake



# Main identified risks

## ... continued

- Winter storm (snow, ice)
- Violent summer weather
  - Torrential rain
  - Violent thunderstorms
  - Tornadoes
- Industrial risks (chemicals, explosions)
- Transportation of hazardous materials
- Power failures
- Telecommunications failures
- Drinking water shortages
- Forest fires
- Road closings (long-term)





# Response at the DGSCSI



**Field  
operations  
Rivière des Prairies  
January 2004**







# The key principles of our response

- Sharing of responsibilities
- Support for the municipality, without the government taking over



# Government Operations Centre



## Permanent operations:

- Operational vigilance at all times
- Collection, analysis and circulation of information
- Support for decision making by the authorities
- Alert and mobilization of OSCQ resources

# Government Operations Centre

## Operations and coordination:

- Support for government coordination and the civil protection regional directorates
- Information and assessments on the progress of the situation to facilitate decision making by the authorities
- Meeting of the partners involved in the event: federal, provincial, volunteers



## Call centre:

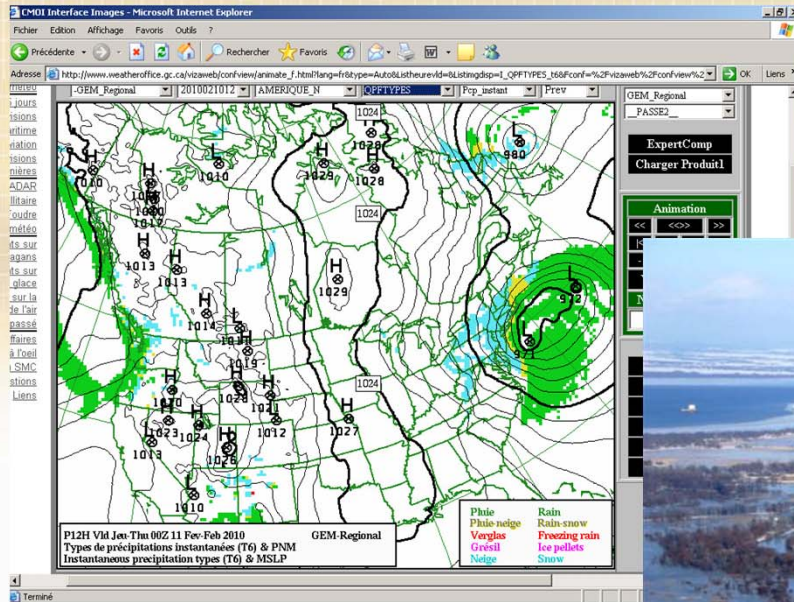
- Urgence Environnement
- Régie du bâtiment
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation





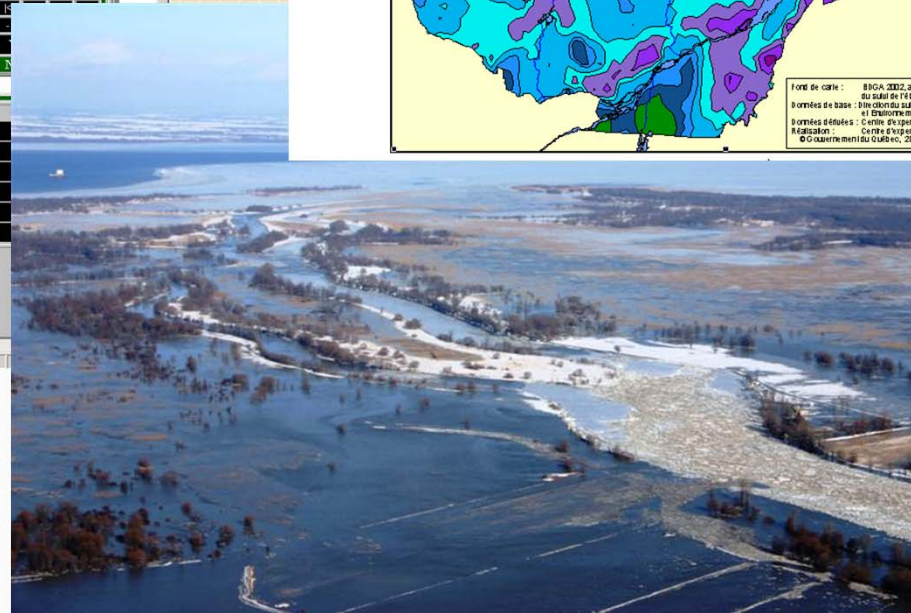
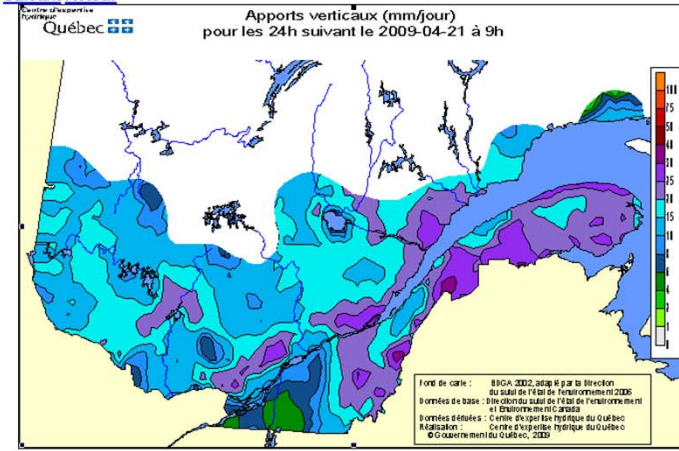
# Links with the partners

- 24/7 access to Environment Canada meteorologists
- 24/7 access to CEHQ on-duty engineers
- 24/7 access to Hydro Météo specialists



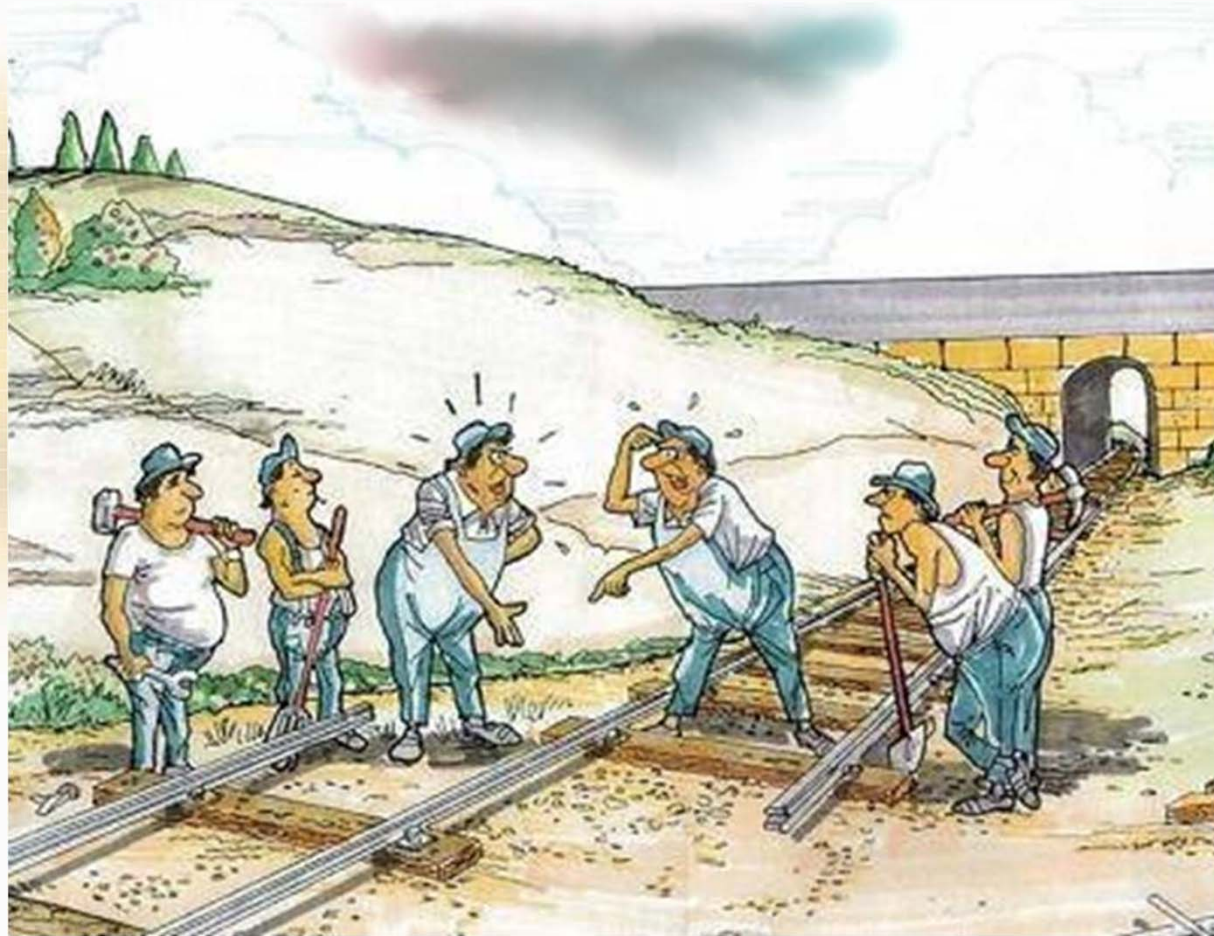
Apports verticaux (mm/jour) basés sur des prévisions

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# The challenge: work together

...to  
avoid a  
result  
like this  
one





# Questions?

Accueil — Ministère de la Sécurité publique - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/

Fichier Edition Affichage Favoris Outils ?

Accueil — Ministère de la Sécurité publique

**Sécurité publique Québec**

Accueil Plan du site Recherche Nous joindre Portail Québec English

Le ministère

Sécurité civile

Sécurité incendie

Police, prévention et sécurité privée

Services correctionnels

Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale

[ Police, prévention et sécurité privée ]

Assurer la sécurité publique

Milieu de vie

Société québécoise

Assure

1 2 3 4 5 6

**Vous êtes...**

Voir tous les profils

**Sinistré**

- Aide financière aux sinistrés
- Sinistres admissibles

**Citoyen**

- Trousse d'urgence
- Formuler une plainte
- Sujets d'intérêt
- Accès à l'information

**Administrateur d'une municipalité**

- Municipalités
- Schéma de couverture de risques
- Débit / niveau des cours d'eau

**Service de police**

- Bottin des services de police
- Accès à l'extranet DGAP
- Enquêtes indépendantes

**Corps de police autochtone**

- Bottin des services de police
- Accès à l'extranet DGAP
- Corps de police autochtones

Salle de presse

Une **CARRIÈRE** au ministère

Terminé

Démarrer Novell Group... 2 Microsoft... 2 Microsoft... 2 Microsoft... 2 Internet... 13:21

[www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca)

# *Forest fire*

## *Manawan evacuation*

- Request from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Activation of the ORSC (RPSA)
- Conference calls
- Monitoring of the situation with SOPFEU
- Contact with the municipalities (Joliette, Crabtree and St-Charles-Boromé) to prepare shelters
- Decision to evacuate people at risk (elders, pregnant women, young children, sick people, etc.)
  - MTQ, SQ, ASSS, Red Cross, AANDC, SOPFEU, MRNF, MSG